

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the present invention and added new Claim 5, dependent upon Claim 1, to a more specific embodiment of this invention, with support therefor found at lines 10 and 11 of page 7 of the present specification. The specification has been amended only to remove reference to specific claims and no new matter is involved.

As now provided in amended Claim 1, the only independent claim, a fuse cavity is provided that has a housing to receive a fuse, where the fuse includes a fuse element, terminals provided at both ends of the fuse element, and a fuse body. A protecting projection protrudes from a middle part of the fuse body for protecting the fuse element and is disposed on the fuse body intermediate the terminals on the ends of the fuse element, and the housing has a guide formed at a side wall of an inner part thereof, the guide being allowed to contact with the protecting projection of the fuse body so as to prevent the fuse from being inserted obliquely into the housing. Such an arrangement of a housing to receive a fuse is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, original Claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Araki (U.S. 5,215,479). Reconsideration and removal of that rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Araki shows a fuse cavity (5a) that has a housing (5) that receives a fuse (B) that includes a fuse element, terminals (3) at both ends and a fuse body (2). It is also alleged that a protecting projection (4) protrudes from a middle part of the fuse body for protecting the fuse element and that the housing has a guide (8) formed at an inner part, the guide

(8) being allowed to contact with the projection (4) of the fuse body so as to prevent the fuse from being inserted obliquely into the housing. The Office Action notes that the guide has a slope (8a) and that the guide is made taller than the terminal.

There are, however, distinct and beneficial differences between the Araki fuse box and that of the present amended claims.

For example, in the Araki fuse box, the projections or ribs (4) are at the ends of the fuse and not on the side walls of the fuse as in the present invention. Claim 1 has been amended to provide that the protecting projection is disposed on said fuse body intermediate the terminals on the ends of the fuse element in order to point out this distinction.

In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to provide that the housing has a guide formed “at a side wall” of an inner part thereof, while the guide (insertion detecting rib 8) in the Araki device is provided in an end wall of the housing.

In summary, the Araki reference does not teach or suggest the fuse cavity of amended Claim 1 where a protecting projection is “disposed on said fuse body intermediate the terminals on the ends of the fuse element” and where the housing has a guide formed at “a side wall of” an inner part thereof as now called for in amended Claim 1.

The Araki projection and insertion detecting ribs are also a completely different shape than that of the present invention, and new Claim 5 has been added to provide that the protecting projection is formed as an insulating housing in a substantially rectangular box shape.


In view of the present amendments to the claims and the above remarks, Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5, as amended, are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance there of respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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